IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 7 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A transmission apparatus used for forming a ring network that supports a bidirectional ring switching capability, the transmission apparatus comprising:

a detecting part detecting a ring switching request from a received signal, including identifiers of transmission apparatuses between which a failure occurs~~;~~, wherein the ring switching request is sent from one of the transmission apparatuses that detects the failure, and at least one of the transmission apparatuses performs line switching after receiving the ring switching request that goes around the ring network;

an obtaining part obtaining an identifier from the ring switching request and concatenation setting information, corresponding to the identifier, from a concatenation setting information table that includes concatenation setting information for each identifier of transmission apparatuses forming the network; and

a setting part making a concatenation setting for a protection line according to the concatenation setting information.

2. (previously presented) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a storing part storing the concatenation setting information table.

3. (original) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the obtaining part obtains the concatenation setting information from information received from another transmission apparatus.

4. (previously presented) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 2, the transmission apparatus further comprising:

a detecting part detecting a concatenation setting in the transmission apparatus; and

a sending part adding the respective identifier of the transmission apparatus to concatenation setting information corresponding to the concatenation setting and sending the concatenation setting information with the respective identifier to another transmission apparatus.

5. (previously presented) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein, when the respective identifier is changed, the sending part adds the changed identifier to the concatenation setting information and sends the concatenation setting information with the changed identifier to another transmission apparatus.

6. (previously presented) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 4, the transmission apparatus further comprising:

a part adding the respective identifier to first pieces of concatenation setting information stored in the storing part and sending the first pieces of concatenation setting information with the respective identifier to another transmission apparatus in response to receiving a predetermined command; and

a part receiving second pieces of concatenation setting information from another transmission apparatus, writing respective concatenation setting information into the received second pieces of concatenation setting information, and sending the second pieces of concatenation setting information to another transmission apparatus.

7. (currently amended) A concatenation setting method in a transmission apparatus used for forming a ring network that supports a bidirectional ring switching capability, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a ring switching request from a received signal, including identifiers of transmission apparatuses between which a failure occurs~~;~~, wherein the ring switching request is sent from one of the transmission apparatuses that detects the failure, and at least one of the transmission apparatuses performs line switching after receiving the ring switching request that goes around the ring network;

obtaining an identifier from the ring switching request and concatenation setting information, corresponding to the identifier, from a concatenation setting information table that includes concatenation setting information for each identifier of transmission apparatuses

forming the network; and

making a concatenation setting for a protection line according to the concatenation setting information.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the transmission apparatus comprises a storing part storing the concatenation setting information table.

9. (original) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the transmission apparatus obtains the concatenation setting information from information received from another transmission apparatus.

10. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, the method further comprising: detecting a concatenation setting in the transmission apparatus; and

adding the respective identifier of the transmission apparatus to concatenation setting information corresponding to the concatenation setting and sending the concatenation setting information with the respective identifier to another transmission apparatus.

11. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein, when the respective identifier is changed, the transmission apparatus adds the changed identifier to the concatenation setting information and sends the concatenation setting information with the changed identifier to another transmission apparatus.

12. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, the method further comprising: adding the respective identifier to first pieces of concatenation setting information stored in the storing part and sending the first pieces of concatenation setting information with the respective identifier to another transmission apparatus in response to receiving a predetermined command; and

receiving second pieces of concatenation setting information from another transmission apparatus, writing respective concatenation setting information into the received second pieces of concatenation setting information, and sending the second pieces of concatenation setting information to another transmission apparatus.